

Appl. No. 09/787,853  
Attr. Docket No. 7713  
Amtd. dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2003

#### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 remain in the case.

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected over U.S. 5,583,098, for the reasons of record at pages 2 -3 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention addresses the solubility problems of granular detergents, described as "clumping" and "lump-gel" formation at pages 1-2 in the specification.

There is nothing in U.S. 5,583,098 that teaches or suggests a granular detergent composition comprising *inter alia* particles wherein at least about 90% of the particles have a mean particle diameter in the range from about 700 microns to about 1000 microns. Furthermore, U.S. '098 does not teach or suggest a granular detergent composition wherein at least about 90% of the particles have a circularity less than about 50 and an aspect ratio less than about 2. Hence, it would not be inherent for U.S. '098 to have the particle characteristics as claimed by applicants. Yet further, the instant invention is not obvious in view of U.S. '098. Hence, U.S. '098 neither teaches nor suggests the present invention in the sense of either §102 or §103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on all claims is requested.

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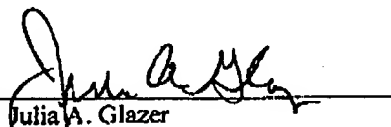
SUMMARY

This is an RCE and response which is responsive to the final Office Action dated August 29, 2003. This response is being timely filed on December 1, 2003 as the three month due date for response (November 29, 2003) fell on a Saturday. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn and the claims remaining in the claim objections and rejections and allow the claims remaining in the instant application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR: MORT III et al.,

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